

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ -  
NOFORN

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Mechanized Division Potsdam 25X1

EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1

DATE OF CONTENT  25X1

DATE OBTAINED 6 October 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

1. From 19 August 1955 to 6 September 1955, only limited activity was observed in the area of the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam. Occasionally, 1 or 2 companies whose men wore medium-blue service color were observed at field training in the area of the Bornstedter Feld and at drill exercises and marksmanship training in the area of the installation. The installation quartered an estimated 200 men. The bulk of the unit was presumably still in the summer camp in the area of Kletz.<sup>1</sup>
2. At the same time, 20 to 24 permanent vehicle storage sheds were under construction on Pappel Allee in Potsdam where a new quartering building with a capacity of about 150 to 200 men was completed.
3. During the time of observation, the Garde du Corps Kaserne in Potsdam was only slightly occupied. On some days, about 2 platoons were observed at drill with a 37-mm AA gun, receiving instruction and being given drill practices and marksmanship training. It was believed that the majority of the soldiers observed were recruits. The vehicle storage sheds which stood open were empty.<sup>1</sup>
4. During the same time, trucks which were occupied by KVPs frequently left for the rifle ranges on Marquardter Chaussee in Potsdam. On 1 September 1955, 12 sidecar motorcycles each of which was occupied by 3 men who wore medium-blue service color entered the installation.
5. On 3 September 1955, a KVP officer said that a joint exercise of Soviets and KVPs which would involve tanks, SP guns and AT guns was to be held in the area of the Kletz troop training grounds during the week after 5 September 1955.

25X1

25X1

25X1

- 2 -

- numbering*
6. From early ~~1955~~ *1955*, the KVPs left in the Premnitz installation ~~1-1000~~ *1-1000* 350 men, were observed in part at ~~drill~~ *drill* in the area of the installation, and in part at field training at the training ground of the Premnitz-Moegelin station. Other component units which were organized into detachments of up to 120 men engaged in harvesting work in the area around the station. Sentries observed at the installation wore red-bordered black collar patches. No heavy weapons were observed.
  7. In the nights of 22 and 23 August 1955, about 200 men left the installation, probably for the Ferchels-Mahlitz troop training grounds. After their departure, the installation still quartered about 150 men. <sup>2</sup>
  8. KVP sentries observed in the area of the Goettliner Bergen on the Havel River wore red-bordered black collar patches.
  9. On 14 August 1955, advance details of all units stationed at the Oranienburg concentration camp allegedly left for Kliestz (?). The units inclusive of recruits were scheduled to follow them on 6 September 1955. In view of major discharges which were allegedly scheduled for early October the troops were soon to return. <sup>3</sup>
  10. On 24 August 1955, units which included an undetermined number of guns and 4 tanks returned to the installation from a long exercise which was held in the area of Gr. Schoenebeck and the Schorfheide. They allegedly fired at a target village in the Schorfheide. <sup>4</sup>
  11. Construction activity continued in the area of the installation. The hospital and another new building were not yet completed.
  12. In early August 1955, the Ferchels-Mahlitz troop training grounds was occupied by an estimated 4,000 men while, in early September 1955, about 5,000 men were located in this area. Record firing practices which involved heavy weapons were held daily. Most exercises were held at night. Heavy motor traffic was noted in this area.
  13. On 5 August 1955, 7 tanks which were occupied by KVPs were observed between Ferchels and Karlsthal.
  14. On the morning of 10 August 1955, 45 trucks which were occupied by KVPs travelled from Mahlitz toward Scharlibbe. Each truck towed a gun which was presumably a 122-mm field howitzer. <sup>5</sup>
  15. In the night of 11 August 1955, 2 ~~JS II~~ *JS II* and T 34/85 tanks were detrained at the Gross-Wudicke ~~ra~~ *ra* station. They left toward Ferchels-Mahlitz. In the night of 21 August 1955, another 17 T-34/85 tanks and 3 JS II tanks were detrained at the same site. This shipment included about 150 men and 12 trucks. This unit also left toward Ferchels. <sup>6</sup>

25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

16. On 9 August and 20 August 1955, a KVP camp of 80 to 100 tents for enlisted men was observed about 500 meters west of the Trittsee (lake). The troops quartered in the camp included a signal unit which almost daily held exercises extending as far as the area of Schollene.<sup>7</sup>
17. On 22 August 1955, a truck column travelled from Gross-Wudicke toward Schollene. It included 20 trucks which were loaded with pontoons, 10 trucks which were loaded with beams, planks and boards, 5 trucks each of which was loaded with a motor boat, and another about 20 trucks which were occupied by enlisted men carrying field packs.<sup>8</sup>
18. From 2300 to 0200 in the night of 23 August 1955, about 320 trucks which came from the north passed through Molkenberg toward Mahlitz. The numbers of the motor vehicles were covered. No heavy weapons were observed. Each truck was occupied by enlisted men who carried field packs.<sup>9</sup>
19. In the night of 23 August 1955, 20 SP guns and 2 armored scout cars were entrained at the Brandenburg-Altstadt railroad station. The destination of the shipment was unknown. The imprints of the tracks of the SP guns led toward Hohenstuecken.<sup>10</sup>
20. From 10 August to 28 August 1955, about 300 KVPs almost daily held stream-crossing exercises with pneumatic boats and rafts at the junction of the Stremme River and the Havel River 1 kilometer northeast of Goettlin (3 kilometers north-northwest of Rathenow). The troops crossed the river under fire support by 5 to 6 tanks, 6 to 8 guns and several heavy machine guns and by use of practice mines and smoke pots. The troops arrived in trucks in the morning and left in trucks before nightfall. It was noted that numerous officers who included a general wearing wide blue stripes along his trousers visited this site. The soldiers observed at these exercises wore dark-blue or black collar patches. The sentries who guarded the stream-crossing equipment which was stored overnight at the training ground said that the practicing troops and the heavy weapons came from Kliestz. Other sentries said they came from Potsdam.<sup>11</sup>
21. On 30 August 1955, 8 trucks each of which was loaded with an assault boat came from the direction of Moegelin passed through Rathenow and went toward Hohennauen. Laborers who came from Hohennauen said that KVP engineers practiced there on the Havel River.<sup>11</sup>
22. On 31 August 1955, a KVP motor column which came from the Schollene training grounds was observed in the area of Rathenow. It passed through Premnitz toward Brandenburg. The column included 20 trucks which also carried eight to ten 120-mm mortars.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

25X1

- 4 -


1.  Comment. The bulk of the 2d Mech Regt has arrived at the training grounds east of Kietz in early August, while component units have been rotated there starting in early July.  It is believed that the bulk of the AAA regiment which is known in the Garde-du-Corps Kaserne is also still located at a troop training grounds or an artillery range. 25X1
2.  Comment. As early as mid-July, major component units of the mortar regiment which is known in Premnitz have been dispatched to the training grounds east of Kietz.  It is believed that some of these component units have been exchanged for units which had hitherto stayed in the installation. See paragraph 22 of the present report. 25X1
3.  Comment. The 1st Mech Regt and the medium tank regiment of the subject division are known in the Oranienburg concentration camp. It was known in spring 1955 that discharges are scheduled for this fall.  Reference is also made to paragraph 5 of the present report. 25X1
4.  Comment. Component units of Mechanized Division Potsdam are reported from this training area for the first time. Pregious information indicates that until now only component units of Korps Nord, particularly Motorized Rifle Division Prenzlau, have practiced there. 25X1
5.  Comment.  Artillery Regiment Glowwen together with artillery units of mechanized regiments.  25X1
6.  Comment. The tanks observed have probably belonged to Heavy Tank SP Regiment Burg. 25X1
7.  Comment. The installation is possibly the camp of a mechanized regiment and, perhaps, the signal battalion of the divisbn. 25X1
8.  Comment.  the engineer battalion of the division with component units of a mechanized regiment. 25X1
9.  Comment.  the bulk of the motor vehicles of Mechanized Regiment Potsdam and Mechanized Regiment Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken which had held an exercise with no heavy weapons involved. 25X1
10.  Comment.  the armored vehicles of Mechanized Regiment Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken are mainly SP guns. 25X1

25X1

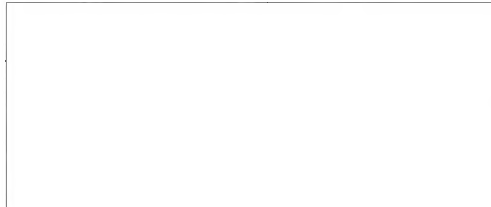


25X1

- 5 -

11.  Comment. Component units of Mechanized Regiment Potsdam and engineer units of the division have probably held a joint exercise in the area around the training grounds east of Kietz. See also paragraph 8. Previous information indicates that generals of the KVP and the SoA wear red stripes along their trousers.

25X1



25X1



25X1